

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-07 /035 R

DRAFTED BY COMM/NOAA/NMFS:SFOSTER:JJ
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:AZUCCA
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COMM/NOAA/NMFS:WCRAIG
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COMM/NOAA/NMFS:TBILLY
COMM/DIB:GDELGADO
STATE-AF/E:RBAKER 632-3040

-----006284 111437Z /53

R 111346Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

UNCLAS STATE 160190

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SE

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON TUNA VESSELS

REF: VICTORIA 287, JUNE 2, 1977

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE CONTACTED THE NMFS SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER AND THE SEAFOOD QUALITY AND INSPECTION DIVISION AND OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. TUNA MAY BE HELD ON ICE 6 DAYS TO 2 WEEKS, IN TEMPERATE CLIMATES, BUT GOOD QUALITY CAN NOT BE GUARANTEED. ALMOST ALL OF THE US CATCH IS FROZEN ON UNCLASSIFIED

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BOARD, NO REGULATIONS EXIST AS TO FREEZING ON BOARD VS. ON SHORE. SOME U.S. VESSELS MAY ICE THE LAST CATCH BEFORE SAILING FOR HOMEPORT SO THAT IT CAN BE SOLD FRESH.

3. THERE IS NO U.S. PRICE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TUNA FROZEN ON SHORE, BASICALLY BECAUSE PRACTICALLY ALL

TUNA IS NOW FROZEN ON BOARD.

4. CURRENT EXVESSEL PRICES IN CALIFORNIA (TUNA FROZEN ON BOARD) FOR WEEK OF JUNE 6 ARE,

A. SKIPJACK UNDER 4 LB - 693 DOLLARS PER METRIC TON
(630 DOLLARS PER SHORT TON)
SKIPJACK OVER 4 LB - 803 DOLLARS PER METRIC TON (730
DOLLARS PER SHORT TON)

B. YELLOWFIN (ALL SIZES) 863 DOLLARS PER METRIC TON
(785 DOLLARS PER SHORT TON).

NMFS HAS POUCHED EMBASSY MARKET OUTLOOK REPORT ON FOOD
FISH WHICH CONTAINS DETAILED INFORMATION ON U.S. TUNA
MARKET.

5. INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT CONSENSUS IS THAT ON-BOARD
FREEZING FACILITIES ARE PREFERABLE, ESPECIALLY FOR
LONG DISTANCES. IF ON-SHORE FACILITIES ARE USED,
THERE MUST BE AN ICE-MAKING PLANT TO PROVIDE VESSELS
WITH ICE, STORAGE FACILITIES, ETC.

6. REGIONAL FISHERY ATTACHE (RFA) FOR AFRICA, WILLIAM
FOLSOM, IS LOCATED AT AMCONGEN, CASABLANCA.

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7. NMFS HAS CONTACTED COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OFFICE
SPECIALIZING IN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FISHING
VESSELS. ANY DETAILS ON GOS VESSELS REQUIREMENTS
WILL BE RELAYED TO U.S. SHIPYARDS. NMFS APPRECIATES
EMBASSY'S REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT.

8. NMFS AND RFA HAVE PREVIOUSLY PREPARED A FOREIGN
FISHERY LEAFLET ON MADAGASCAR WHICH CONTAINS DETAILED
INFORMATION ON TUNA. NMFS HAS POUCHED A COPY TO THE
EMBASSY.

9. THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED ON JUNE 13 THAT
ACCORDING TO MR. HODOUL, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE, KOREAN AND JAPANESE TRAWLERS ARE FISHING
"ILLEGALLY" AND THAT SEYCHELLES WOULD RECEIVE PATROL
VESSELS FROM FRANCE TO ENFORCE ITS FISHERIES ZONE
(UNSPECIFIED), AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
FROM THE U.K. EMBASSY'S COMMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

10. ALERT REPORTING ON JOINT FISHERY VENTURES, FOREIGN
AID, FISHERY AGREEMENTS, SEIZURES OF FOREIGN FISHING
VESSELS, THE STATE OF THE RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY

POTENTIAL FOR SHRIMP, LOBSTER, AND TUNA EXPORTS TO
U.S., AND OTHER RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IS REQUESTED. VANCE

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